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State of Maine
 ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
 COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TO: Senator Bill Diamond, Senate Chair
 Representative Emily Cain, House Chair
 Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Lawrence Bliss, Senate Chair *LB*
 Representative Charles R. Priest, House Chair *CRP*
 Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

DATE: June 4, 2009

RE: **Priorities for bills on Appropriations Table**

Pursuant to Joint Rule 314(7), we are reporting our committee's priorities for final passage of bills reported out of our committee that are now on the Appropriations Table. There are five bills pending final action because of their fiscal impact that were reported out by the Judiciary Committee. We would like to point out the combined fiscal impact of these five bills:

	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY Projected 2011-12	FY Projected 2012-13
(Savings)	(\$33,251)	(\$ 6,337)	(\$ 12,852)	(\$ 2,190)

Our first priority is supporting indigent legal services, so we place LD 1132 at the very top of our list, even though there are no identified additional costs.

The remainder of the bills we present to you as a package. LD 679 includes no appropriation/allocation; costs will be created only if a governmental entity refuses in bad faith to comply with the freedom of access laws. Both LD 445 and LD 796 are important steps in improving State-Tribal relationships. LD 443 is one of those exceptional bills that not only improves the law for the vast majority of Maine citizens, but will also contribute additional revenue to the State coffers.

With that explanation, here is the listing of the Judiciary Committee bills on or headed to the Special Appropriations Table.

Rank Order	LD #, Title & Sponsor	FISCAL NOTE Net cost/(Savings)			
		FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	FY Projected 2011-12	FY Projected 2012-13
1	LD 1132, An Act To Establish the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	LD 679, An Act To Allow a Court To Award Attorney's Fees in Successful Freedom of Access Appeals (Potential current biennium cost increase - General Fund)	-	-	-	-
2	LD 445, An Act To Improve Tribal-State Relations	\$0	\$42,931	\$34,758	\$43,711
2	LD 796, An Act To Direct Fines Collected on Tribal Lands to the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation	\$13,875	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$18,500
2	LD 443, An Act To Increase the Jurisdictional Limit for Small Claims	(\$47,153)	(\$67,768)	(\$66,110)	(\$64,401)
TOTAL	(Savings)	(\$33,251)	(\$ 6,337)	(\$ 12,852)	(\$ 2,190)

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary